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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION AID-28

INFO OCT-01 AF-12 CIAE-00 INR-08 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02

AGR-20 L-04 E-15 COM-08 TRSY-11 SCI-06 SS-20 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6976
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT ALGIERS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J. M. Razi DATE May 6, 1982
RDS ☑ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FOI EXEMPTIONS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 2379

SUBJ: LARG PLANS FOR WHEAT IMPROVEMENT

REF: A) TRIPOLI 2234; B) STATE 160950

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED KUFRA AUTHORITY'S PLANS FOR WHEAT PRODUCTION WITH MUHAMMAD KARAH, DIRECTOR OF AUTHORITY, AND ROBERT THOMASON, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, BOTH OF WHOM JUST RETURNED FROM KUFRA. THEY MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. KUFRA TEAM HAS EXPERIENCE IN IMPROVED WHEAT PRODUCTION AT KUFRA (WITH YIELDS OF 59.5 QUINTALS/HECTARE), WHERE

B. CLIMATE AND CONDITIONS COMPARE FAVORABPW WITH SOUTHWESTERN US.

C. THEY INTEND, AS REPORTED REF A, TO PLANT 250 ACRES AS TEST AND FOR SEED, STARTING IN TEN DAYS.

D. THEY HAVE READ, AND WERE IMPRESSED BY, LITZENBERGER'S REPORTS. THEY THEN DISCUSSED WITH LIBYAN OFFICIALS WISDOM OF CONTACTING CIMMYT THROUGH EMBASSY, TO "EXPEDITE MATTERS." KUFRA AUTHORITY WOULD NATURALLY PAY CIMMYT EXPENSES -- OR THEY WOULDN'T HAVE RAISED THE SUBJECT.

E. LARG'S PLANS FOR FULL-BLOWN WHEAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO DEVELOP. KUFRA, WITH FEWER BUREAUCRATIC RESTRICTIONS, PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD.

2. REF A, IN REFERENCE TO TRANSFERRING KUFRA EXPERIENCE TO COAST

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DID NOT MEAN TO IMPLY SEED FOR SEED, STALK FOR STALK, BUT RATHER "ONCE THE KUFRA WHEAT PROJECT GETS GOING, CHANCES OF SPREADING EXPERIENCE TO COASTAL BELT AND INDIVIDUAL LIBYAN FARMERS WILL BE ENHANCED."

3. PRECEDING UNDERSTATES THE CASE; IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO GET LIBYANS TO SEEK OUR HELP. WE STILL FEEL AID COULD BE USEFUL IN MAKING INITIAL CONTACTS WITH CIMMYT, BUT WE HAVE DALLIED FOR TWO WEEKS NOW. WE WILL BE TRYING TO ASSIST KUFRA AUTHORITIES IN PURCHASING "MEXIPAK" AND "SUPER X" SEED IN TUNIS. IF AID CAN HELP CONVINCE CIMMYT TO ASSIST THE LIBYANS, THEN WHEAT IMPROVEMENT CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO THE COASTAL BELT WHEN THE LIBYAN BUREAUCRACY IS CRANKED UP FOR IT. HAVING A TECHNICIAN IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER.

4. IF CIMMYT TRULY UNABLE TO HELP, MAYBE "TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY" WORKING GROUP CAN FIND SOMEONE ON CRASH BASIS WHO COULD.

5. IF CIMMYT PREPARED TO RESPOND WITHIN NEXT FEW REPEAT FEW DAYS, HAVE THEM CONTACT MUHAMMAD KARAH, DIRECTOR, KUFRA AGRICULTURAL AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL REFORM, TRIPOLI.

DECONTROL FOLLOWING 10/5/71.
JOSIF

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